

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W
-----091005Z 107439 /10

R 090930Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0594

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: DC'S HOLD ON TRIESTE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BROKEN

1. DC'S 20-YEAR MONOPOLY ON PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN TRIESTE WAS BROKEN FEBRUARY 7, BY COMBINED FORCES OF THE PSI, PCI, PSDI, AND PLI. THE ALL-DC MINORITY GIUNTA HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK SINCE ITS INCEPTION SEVEN MONTHS AGO. IN ATTEMPTING TO HEAD OFF DISSOLUTION OF HIS GIUNTA, FORMER PRESIDENT MICHELE ZANETTI (DC) HAD OFFERED A PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD TO THE DC OPPONENTS BUT THE SOCIALISTS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THEIR BEHAVIOR IN OTHER PROVINCES REFUSED TO DEAL. DENIED AN EFFECTIVE VOICE IN EARTHQUAKE MATTERS, THE OSIMO TREATY, ETC., THE SOCIALISTS APPARENTLY ARE DETERMINED TO BE AS OBSTREPEROUS AS POSSIBLE WITH THE DC IN THE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA.

2. INCOMING PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT LUCIO GHERSI (PSI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR TRIESTE) IS NOW FACED WITH PUTTING TOGETHER A SLATE OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILORS. THE TASK IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE SINCE THE PSI AND PCI TOGETHER DO NOT COMMAND A MAJORITY AND ANY COMBINATION INVOLVING THE PCI WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED BY THE SMALLER LAY PARTIES. ONE POSSIBLE OUTCOME MAY BE EARLY PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS (NOW DUE
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IN 1980) TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE TRIESTE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR.

3. AN ANALOGOUS SITUATION EXISTS IN TRIESTE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WHERE DC MAYOR SPACCINI HAS RESIGNED. THE DC HAS 22 OF THE 60 SEATS, HOWEVER, AND A PSI/PCI ALLIANCE CANNOT COMMAND ANYWHERE NEAR A MAJORITY.

4. COMMENT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TRIESTE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS ARE FURTHER SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND OF THE WEAKENING DC GRIP ON ITS OLD FIEFDOMS. WHILE PCI DOES NOT HAVE THE CLOUT HERE THAT IT HAS IN VENICE AND ROVIGO, IT DOES HAVE ENOUGH TO BLOCK PROPOSALS IT FINDS UNCONGENIAL. EARLY ELECTIONS MAY CLEAR THE AIR BUT THE QUESTIONS OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, OSIMO AND THE FUTURE OF TRIESTE MAY SERVE ONLY TO OBSCURE THE ISSUES AND FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS. MOEN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TRIEST00032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0050
Format: TEL
From: TRIESTE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770256/aaaabxur.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ec018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359460
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DC\VS HOLD ON TRIESTE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BROKEN
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ec018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009